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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/976,788	10/12/2001	Peter Baeuerle	10744/7600	2206

26646 7590 03/23/2004

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EXAMINER

BROADHEAD, BRIAN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3661

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/976,788

Applicant(s)

BAEUERLE, PETER

Examiner

Brian J. Broadhead

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 through 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cowan et al., 5029087.

3. As per claims 1, 11, 16, and 26, Cowan et al. disclose the slip of the torque converter is adjusted using a setpoint value, while the torque-converter lockup clutch is being closed, the setpoint value being continuously selected inside a closing interval after the initiation of the closing interval, as a function of time, and taking into account the input torque applied to the torque converter on lines 30-38, on column 4, in figures 5 and 6, and on lines 11-31, on column 13.

4. As per claims 2 and 17, Cowan et al. disclose for the time-dependence of the setpoint value, a pre-selected time characteristic is taken into account, which converts the slip existing at the beginning of the closing interval as the initial value, into a target value, within the closing interval on lines 37-65, on column 14, and in figure 6A.

5. As per claims 3 and 18, Cowan et al. disclose a linear transition from the initial value to the target value is provided as a time characteristic inside the closing interval in Figure 6A.

6. As per claims 4 and 19, Cowan et al. disclose the input torque applied to the torque converter is monitored inside the closing interval, in response to the input torque changing by more than a specifiable tolerance deviation, the slip of the torque converter being ascertained and taken as a basis for a new initial value, which would appear at this input torque in the case of a completely open torque-converter lockup clutch on lines 5-11, on column 4.

7. As per claims 5 and 20, Cowan et al. disclose the value resulting from the preselected time characteristic for the current time inside the closing interval is selected as the setpoint value for the slip, the time characteristic converting the initial value ascertained using the currently applied torque into the target value on lines 1-40-, on column 13.

8. As per claims 6, 7, 21, and 22, Cowan et al. disclose the slip to be used as a new initial value, as a basis for the applied input torque is determined using a stored characteristic map in figure 9.

9. As per claims 8, 12, 23, and 27 Cowan et al. disclose in order to adjust the slip, a controlled parameter is provided for setting a clamping pressure for the torque converter on lines 38-45, on column 6.

10. As per claims 9 and 24, Cowan et al. disclose the time characteristic of the slip is monitored for a decline, in order to detect the start of power transmission in the torque converter lockup clutch on lines 2-5, on column 9.

11. As per claims 10 and 25, Cowan et al. disclose after a decrease in the slip detected, a clamping pressure for the torque converter is set as a function of a coupling

torque to be transmitted and a setpoint value for the slip of the torque converter lockup clutch on lines 52-57, on column 8.

12. As per claims 13, 14, 15, 28, 29 and 30, Cowan et al. disclose the control unit is connected to a data storage unit, in which a time characteristic for the setpoint value of slip is stored, a slip existing at the beginning of a closing interval as an initial value being converted into a target value within the closing interval, in accordance with the time characteristic for the setpoint value of the slip, and a slip value can be derived for each input torque, on lines 37-64, on column 14, and reference number 71 in figure 2A.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments filed 2-10-04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant again also argues that Cowan et al. does not disclose the setpoint value being continuously selected inside a closing interval, but that is exactly what Cowan et al. disclose. In each loop of the method in figure 5, a new value for the desired slip is calculated as is seen in 199 in figure 6. Each desired value of the slip in each loop is a new setpoint value in the closing interval. In figure 6a, in loop 1 through 5 there is a different value of "D", this is the new setpoint value.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Broadhead whose telephone number is 703-308-9033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William A. Cuchlinski can be reached on 703-308-3873. The fax phone

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numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

BJB
March 21, 2004



WILLIAM A. CUCHLINSKI, JR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600